

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06027 120127Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10
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R 120110Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2220
INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, KS
SUBJECT: USKEC REPORTEDLY ORGANIZING TWO TRADE MISSIONS TO KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 115398; (B) SEOUL 3454; (C) SEOUL 5725

1. KOREAN TRADERS ASSN.'S KOREA TRADE NEWS, USING NEW YORK
DATELINE, REPORTED JULY 10 THAT U.S.-KOREAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL
(USKEC) WILL ORGANIZE TWO "HIGH-POWERED" TRADE MISSIONS TO
VISIT KOREA IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR "TO EXPLORE
WAYS OF INCREASING IMPORTS OF KOREAN PRODUCTS," UNDER AN AGREEMENT
REACHED BETWEEN USKEC CHAIRMAN, JAMES VOSS, AND VISITING KUSEC
CHAIRMAN, PARK CHOONG HOON.

2. DURING VISIT TO SEOUL LAST MONTH OF USKEC DELEGATION,
EMBASSY IDSCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH USKEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WILLIAM HENDERSON, ALTHOUGH AT THAT TIME WE WERE UNDER IMPRESSION
THESE WOULD BE U.S. SELLING MISSIONS. WE INFORMED HIM OF
SPATE OF TRADE MISSIONS ALREADY SCHEDULED OR PLANNED FOR THIS
SAME PERIOD, INCLUDING IOGA MISSIONS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA,
BOSTON AND NEW JERSEY, PLUS LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MISSION TO JAPAN, WITH POSSIBLE SPIN-OFF TO KOREA. EMBASSY
INFORMED HENDERSON THAT IF SUCH MISSIONS OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY,
EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO ASSIST WOULD BE LIMITED. HENDERSON SAID
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HE ALSO RECOGNIZED POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING SO MANY
MISSIONS AT SAME TIME, AND AGREED TO CONSULT WITH USDOC/OIM
UPON HIS RETURN, TO TRY TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY
HAS HEARD NO MORE AND KUSEC IS ALSO IN THE DARK, AWAITING CHAIRMAN
PARK'S RETURN ON JULY 13.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING IF ANY COORDINATION WAS ATTEMPTED,

AND WHETHER USKEC IS CONTEMPLATING ORGANIZING BUYING MISSIONS.

4. ON RELATED MATTER, KUSEC RECEIVED TELEX TODAY FROM HENDERSON, REPORTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG-CHIN WILL ACCEPT TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AND PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT KUSEC'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER THIS FALL. KUSEC PROPOSES OCTOBER 5, BUT WILL NOT SEND FORMAL INVITATION UNTIL DATE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. STERN

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